AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A serial communications system comprising:

a scrambler for converting original received data into scrambled data; and

an ECC encoder for converting said scrambled data into ECC-encoded data.

2. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

a serializer for converting said ECC-encoded data into serialized data;

wherein the ECC-encoded data includes frame alignment information; and

the system further comprises a receiver for receiving said serialized data and converting the serialized data into data frames based upon the frame alignment information.

3. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 2, wherein the receiver comprises:

a frame-recoverer for converting said serialized data into data frames;

an ECC decoder for converting said data frames into ECC-decoded data and error indications; and

a scrambler for converting said ECC-decoded data into de-scrambled data.

4. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim [[5]] 3, wherein said frame-recoverer uses said error indications in converting said serialized data into data frames.

5. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said ECC encoder applies an error correction code in converting said scrambled data into said ECC-encoded data.

6. (Previously Presented) A serial communications method, comprising the steps of:

converting original received data into scrambled data; and

converting said scrambled data into ECC-encoded data.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

generating a serial stream of the ECC-encoded data; and

transmitting said serial stream.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein:

the ECC-encoded data includes frame alignment information; and

the method further comprises receiving said serialized data and converting said serialized data into data frames based upon said frame alignment information.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising:

receiving said serialized data;

converting said serialized data into data frames;

converting said data frames into ECC-decoded data and error indications; and

converting said ECC-decoded data into de-scrambled data.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of converting the serialized data comprises converting the serialized data into data frames based upon said error indications.

11. – 33. (canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A serial communication system comprising:

a scrambler for converting received data into scrambled data, said received data being without redundant bits inserted by said serial communication system or being re-encoded by said serial communiction system; and

an ECC encoder for converting said scrambled data into ECC-encoded data.